CHAPTER X1

BONAPARTE SEIZES HIS OPPORTUNITY

The Banquet to Bonaparte and Moreau — Plans of the Bonapar-tists — Terrors of Bonaparte and Talleyrand — The Role of the Ancients — The Generals at Bonaparte's House — His Address to the Ancients — The Five Hundred — Sieyes and Roger-Ducos Resign from the Directory — B arras Intimidated — Gohier and Moulins Imprisoned — Bernadotte's Counterplot.

ON November first, 1799, Sieyes formally surrendered all control. By agreeing, as he did in a conference with Bonaparte, that the outline of the "perfect" constitution which he had written — it was his own epithet — should not be laid directly before the councils, but should be submitted to a committee, he abdicated the public leadership, and became the dupe of his colleagues. On the sixth a banquet was given to Bonaparte in the church of St. Sulpice. It had originally been intended that the tribute should come from both chambers; in reality the affair was arranged entirely by a few of the Ancients, who were now almost to a man Bona-partists. Moreau was present as a guest. Embittered against the Directory by the impossible labors they had assigned to him, he had entered Paris cautiously and quietly; Bonaparte, equally embittered, but by his own failures, had come amid the plaudits of a nation; but

1 The references for Chapters X and XI are as before, with these additions: the memoirs of Hyde de Neuville, Duport de Che-veiny, Thi6bault, Marmont (due de Raguse), Sarrazin, Matbieu Dumas, Barras, Allonville, Gaudin (due de Gaete),and Pasquier; the Memorial de Norvins, Cahiers du Capitaine Coignet, the Souvenirs of Macdonald, the Commenta-ries of Napoleon, the letters of